

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

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IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE 72-112

THE RESEARCH SCHOOL OF PACIFIC STUDIES

BOX 4 P.O. CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

TEL. 49-5111

Telegrams: "Natiniv" Canberra

14 March 1972

Ret 5117 Fina

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Thank you for your letter of 7 March and your offer to chat with me when I am in the Washington area. My tentative schedule calls for me to arrive in America on the 21st of August and to be in Washington during the week of 29 August to 12 September.

I would be delighted to send you a copy of my senior thesis on the NLF if I had one. At the moment it is with my other household goods somewhere between Sydney and Canberra, having just arrived by sea from the States. When it finally clears customs I will forward a copy which I must ask you to return. The thesis is about 230 pages long and was written during the 1966/67 academic year. Thus it is out of date. There are some other changes I would make in it if I were to write it over again but it has served the purpose of providing a good background for my subsequent research.

The thesis itself was written as seven separate chapters, each written independently of the other. No attempt was made to go back over the entire body of material at the end of the year to incorporate new facts or criticism. I am enclosing a copy of the table of contents which I do have.

Since I last wrote Professor Lyman B. Kirkpatrick sent a letter on my behalf to Dr. Edward Proctor, the Deputy Director for Intelligence. I am enclosing a copy for your information.

I have written most of my graduate school papers on Viet-Nam and I am presently circulating a copy of one for comment. It is entitled "The Socializing Environment of Vietnamese Revolutionaries, 1909-1958" and deals with the back-

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grounds of 107 members of the Central Committee of the NLF, members of the Advisory Council to the "Provisional Revolutionary Government" and members of the "PRG". It relies on open sources as well as two classified biographical studies which I was given access to, one was issued by State and the other by CIA. I am sure you are familiar with them. The paper is divided into two parts, the first deals with the revolutionaries as a group and the second with the socializing environment to which they were exposed as they grew up (from age 20 onwards). The paper itself has been criticized by John Whitmore and David Marr.

Although I asked a rather general question about whether or not you knew about CIA holdings of captured Viet-Cong materials from or relating to the period 1954-1960, I note that you only commented that the "business [was] rather murky and complicated." I don't want to push a point that you might be reluctant to write about (perhaps we can discuss this later) but I would like to raise it again. Can you amplify your remarks?

In this regard I quote from a recent letter from Douglas Pike: "Same thing goes for CIA [concerning obtaining documents and getting others declassified]. One-time one-shot help is possible, but not to plug into the system. At least that has been my experience. (Actually it is better I think to stay away from these people; don't really need them in the long run)." [sic].

Thank you again for your assistance. I apologize for the demands I have made on your busy schedule.

Sincerely yours,

Carlyle A. Thayer

Carlyle A. Thayer,
Department of International Relations,
Research School of Pacific Studies.

1 March 1972

LTGEN Donald Bennett, Director
Defense Intelligence Agency
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Don,

One of my former students, Carlyle Thayer, is currently working on his doctrinal dissertation at the Research School of Pacific Studies, the Australian National University, Canberra. Carl is doing his dissertation on the National Liberation Front of Vietnam, a subject on which he has unique qualifications as he served several years in Vietnam, and even as an undergraduate at Brown was working in this area. He has already made impressive strides in developing material, for starting in May he plans a trip which will take him to Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, France, England and the United States. The trip is being financed by the Australian National University.

When Thayer is in the United States he would like access to both the basic raw material, and NLF and North Vietnamese documents and also experts in the field. The purpose of this letter is to inquire as to the availability of both.

I can certify to the fact that this will be a responsible effort. I would appreciate any assistance or advice that you might be able to give.

Sincerely,

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick, Jr.
Nimitz Chair Professor

LBK/sb

This same letter has also been sent to:

Dr. Edward Proctor
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

and

Dr. Ray S. Cline
Assistant to the Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520